

30p

# Christ Church and People



February Parish Magazine of  
Christ Church Stone 2007

# PARISH DIRECTORY

---

## SUNDAY SERVICES

Details of our services are given on pages 2 and 3.

**Young people's activities** take place in the Centre at 9.15 am

---

## THE PARISH TEAM

<b>Vicar</b>	Paul Kingman The Vicarage, Bromfield Court	812669
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Clare Nash (Office)	811990
<b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>	Irene Gassor	814871
<b>Parish Office</b>	Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB Email christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com	
<b>Youth Worker</b>	Thomas Nash	286551
<b>Deaconess (Retired)</b>	Ann Butler	818160
<b>Readers</b>	David Bell John Butterworth Margaret Massey David Rowlands Michael Thompson Cecilia Wilding	815775 817465 813403 816713 813712 817987
<b>Music Co-ordinators</b>	Peter Mason Jeff Challinor	815854 819665
<b>Wardens</b>	Phil Tunstall David Rowlands	817028 816713
<b>Deputy Wardens</b>	Shirley Hallam, Arthur Foulkes	
<b>Prayer Request List</b>	Barbara Thornicroft	818700

---

## CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

<b>Booking Secretary</b>	Shelagh Sanders	(Office) 811990 (Home) 760602
--------------------------	-----------------	----------------------------------

---

## CHURCH SCHOOLS

Christ Church C.E.(Controlled) First School, Northesk Street.

Head: Mrs Lynne Croxall B.Ed.(Hons) 354125

Christ Church C.E.(Aided) Middle School, Old Road

Head: C. Waghorn B.Ed(Hons),DPSE,ACP,FRSA 354047

# In This Issue

Diary for February	2
Encourage one another	4
An Evening with Phil and Arthur	5
Visit the Lees in Manila	5
Rebecca's Visit	5
Letter from the Bishop of Lichfield	6
Marriage Preparation Class	7
Christ Church First School	8
News from Rebecca	9
Church Electoral Roll	10
From our American Correspondent	11
Children's Society Boxes	12
News from our Sunday School	13
Christingle Service	13
Tearfund Sunday March 4th	14
Roads for Prayer	15
Six Steps to Encouragement - Lent Course	15
A Curate for the Benefice	15
From the Registers	16

# Christ Church



# and People

Please get your  
contributions for  
the March  
magazine to us  
by 15th  
February

---

## Cover Story:

Jerry Cooper drew lots of wonderful pictures for this magazine, all of them buildings in our parish. Here is a picture of Albert Terrace

---

## Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website	<a href="http://www.churches.lichfield.anglican.org/stone/stonecc">www.churches.lichfield.anglican.org/stone/stonecc</a>
Parish office email	<a href="mailto:christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com">christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com</a>
Magazine contributions	<a href="mailto:christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk">christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk</a>

# February 2007

Thu	1	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	2		
Sat	3	8:30am 9:00am 10:00am	Prayer Meeting in church Breakfast in the Centre Marriage Preparation half-day
Sun	4	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion. Text: Luke 4:1-13 "A testing time" Evening Prayer. Text: Matthew 9:27-38 "The Lord of the Harvest"
Mon	5	9:00am 1:10pm 6:30pm	Prayers for schools and young people Alleynes School assembly Cornerstone at 78 Oulton Rd
Tue	6	9:30am 10:30am 12:30pm 1:00pm 7:00pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Midweek communion service Seekers Club Fraternal meeting Christ Church First School governors meeting Youth Club in the Centre
Wed	7	8:00pm	20's group at the vicarage
Thu	8	1:20pm 7:30pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly Deanery Synod meeting at Christ Church
Fri	9		
Sat	10		
Sun	11	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer. Text: Luke 4:14-30 "The Messiah's Agenda" Communion. Text: Luke 16:19-31 "One Way Ticket"
Mon	12	9:00am	Prayers for schools and young people
Tue	13	10:30am	Midweek communion service
Wed	14		
Thu	15	7:00pm	An Evening with Rebecca
Fri	16		
Sat	17		

# February 2007

Sun	18	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion. Luke 4:31-44 "The Reason He came". Prayer Service
Mon	19	9:00am 6:30pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers at 78 Oulton Road
Tue	20	9:30am 10:30am 12:30pm 4:30pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Midweek communion service Seekers Club Pancake Party Youth Club in the Centre
Wed	21	7:45pm	Lent Course in the Centre
Thu	22	10:30am 1:20pm	Daytime Lent Course Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	23		
Sat	24		Church Spring-Cleaning Day
Su	25	9:15am 6:00pm	Family Luke 5:1-11 "The call and the trawl" Fairtrade goods stall after service. Communion. Text 2 Corinthians 5:9-21 "wine and wonders"
Mon	26	9:00am 6:30pm 7:30pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone at 78 Oulton Road Standing Committee meeting
Tue	27	10:30am 12:30pm 7:30pm	Midweek communion service Seekers Club Youth Club in the Centre
Wed	28	7:45pm	Lent Course in the Centre

Activities for young people take place in the centre during the Sunday morning service each Sunday except the fourth in the month, which is the family service.

Climbers	3-7 years
Explorers	7-11 years
Pathfinders	11-14 years

The following activities take place every week week in the Centre during term time.

Monday Toddlers	9.30 am
Friday Little Fishes	11.00 am



## Encourage one another.

---

We began the year with a covenant renewal service: a time to recall God's pledge of love and rededicate ourselves to follow Christ. But keeping our side of the covenant is put under pressure by the various hurdles in life.

The Bible reminds us that God is faithful. It encourages us to approach God with full assurance that He will provide us with the necessary spiritual resources we need to persevere. Christian faith is not a solitary exercise, but a group activity as members of the church encourage one another. The theme of perseverance is strong in the letter to the Hebrews: *'Let us hold unswervingly to the hope that we profess, for He who promised is faithful'* (Heb 10v23). The message is don't give up, but hold fast! When the tide is out on the beach you will find a good illustration of holding fast. Seaweed is secured to the rocky seabed by the aptly named 'hold-fast.' The holdfast makes it possible for the plant to survive the force of waves and sea currents, which would otherwise tear the plant from its place. Christians are to hold fast to Christ – to never loosen our grip of the faith in him, but to faithfully persevere.

Members of God's family are to encourage other believers to continue in the life of faith and witness, despite difficult circumstances or harsh opposition.

Hebrews instructs us: *'and let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching'* (Heb 10v24-25). Members of Christ's body are to show care to one another: to advise when at a loss as to what to do; to comfort the afflicted; to challenge the complacent; to remind one another of the sure hope that is ours in Christ.

The incentive for all this is *'the Day approaching'* i.e. the future return of Christ. His return is certain (as it is based on God's promise) and will be sudden (the timing will take people by surprise). In view of the limited time we have before His return as our Saviour and Judge, we are to commit ourselves to encouraging one another in the faith. It's a ministry that all of us are to exercise both as a privilege and a blessing.

The Lent course called 'Six Steps to Encouragement' will help us to understand this ministry. I hope that you can take part – for that would be a great encouragement in itself!

Paul Kingman.



**An Evening with Phil and Arthur**  
**7:00 pm Saturday 3rd March in the Centre**  
**Something for Everyone!**

Sale of Plants and Pots of Spring Bulbs  
Guessing Games to Play with Great Prizes to Win!  
Be part of a team in a light-hearted Quiz

Refreshments

Tickets £1 from Phil and Arthur

Proceeds to the Church General Fund

---

**Exciting opportunity to visit the Lees in Manila**

CMS are organising a visit for representatives from the Lees' Link Churches (of which Christ Church is one) to see the work that Tim & Kate Lee are doing amongst street children in Manila. The proposed visit is for 2 weeks in November 2007, cost £1,000+. If at all interested, see Cecilia soon!

**Rebecca's Visit**

Rebecca, daughter of John & Mary Williams, will be with us in church on Sunday morning, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2007. She will be with us again at 7pm on the evening of Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2007 in the Centre when she will speak of her recent experiences in Pakistan.

**Do plan to come.**

## Letter from the Bishop of Lichfield

---

This month we come with the wise men to Bethlehem and, as we worship, the star reminds us that Jesus came to be a light for all the nations. We renew our Epiphany calling to “preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.”

First, a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the turn-around in our diocesan finances. Eighteen months ago each monthly Bishop’s Staff Meeting was dominated by the need to tackle the diocesan debt and to cut stipendiary clergy posts; it was bruising for the Area Teams and depressing for the parishes. But for the last three or four months we have sailed through the item on finance, we have almost reached the end of the planned cuts and have increased the number of ordinands. Of course the pensions’ time bomb is still in front of us; if it were not for that we could be planning an increase in clergy. My prayer is still that we will be able to stabilize the numbers in 2007-8 and start a modest increase in 2008-9.

Second, thank you to all who contributed to the latest version of *Going for Growth*, which was unanimously endorsed at the last Diocesan Synod. It is of course more a vision document than a detailed strategy simply so that it can be up to each parish or cluster to wait upon God for those creative ideas that will enable us to share the unsearchable riches of Christ with our neighbours.

Our aim at all times is to know more of the riches of the love of God and to celebrate his love at work in our communities.

From this we hope:

- to help more adults become disciples of Jesus Christ
- to disciple more children and young people
- to enable churches to have greater impact in their communities.

How that happens will look different in urban and rural parishes, rich and poor – to say nothing of our particular traditions. But as we spend time together with God he will start to make plain to us what action we can take so that we can be good news people and so that our Mission Action Plans can be properly rooted.

*(continued on next page)*

## **Letter from the Bishop of Lichfield (cont)**

---

Three special opportunities which are worth considering this year are:

1) The 200th anniversary of the **Abolition of the Slave Trade**. We can be proud of the decisive part that Christians played in the campaign to abolish slavery and do something together to stop the new people-trafficking round the globe. We can invite people to consider God's action in the rescue of his people from slavery in Egypt through the blood of the lamb and his action to rescue us all from the deeper slavery of sin and death through the cross. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are inviting us all to go on a march to mark the occasion.

2) The 200th anniversary of the founding of the **Primitive Methodists at Mow Cop**. We can celebrate with our ecumenical partners this special outpouring of God's love which particularly touched the workers of Stoke and we can pray for God to revive us in our generation.

3) The **Back to Church Sunday** national campaign. I thought this a gimmick when I first heard of it, but experience all over the country (see the report in the current *Spotlight*) seems to indicate that there are lots of people out there just wanting a proper invitation and a proper welcome to a service where the love of God is offered in a way they can grasp, for them to start coming back to church regularly.

Once again I ask churches to set aside time on Ash Wednesday to pray about your own renewal and that of the church, so that we may all grow in grace together, by the leading of the Spirit, "that through the Church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known" (Eph 3)

***Jonathan Gledhill,***  
***Bishop of Lichfield***

---

### **Marriage Preparation: Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> February.**

There will be a marriage preparation morning held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. This is for couples being married in one of the churches in our benefice this year.

# Christ Church First School

---

Staff and children have returned to school after what seemed a short Christmas break with resolutions firmly in place (maybe some more firm than others!) ready for 2007.

Immediately Staff are involved in meetings regarding current developments in P.E., Numeracy and Literacy. Developments in P.E. strategy will result in many more opportunities becoming available to the children for instance racquet sports training and dance festivals. We are looking forward to taking part in these events.

We are also privileged to have been offered a beautiful set of handbells on loan for 12 months from the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain - William Hartley Memorial Fund. This will enable us to offer this as an extra-curricular activity. It's difficult to say who is more excited—the Staff or children! Hopefully we will be able to use these in our presentations in Church during the year.

We are also delighted to invite Parents and friends to share Worship with us each alternate Tuesday morning when Rev. Kingman visits. We would welcome any of our Church family who would like to join us on these occasions. Our Worship begins at 9.30am until 9.50 am. This term's dates are

Tuesday January 23rd

Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday March 6<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday March 20<sup>th</sup>.

We look forward to taking part in the Education Sunday Service in Church on Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup> and our Easter Service is in Church on Friday March 30<sup>th</sup> at 2.00 pm.

What a year of opportunities this promises to be!

Janet Booth (Early Years' Coordinator)

Imagine it was possible to travel anywhere in the world for one day! Supposing it was, let me take you with me to where I live, in the mountains of south Asia, and give you a whirlwind tour.

Our world is bordered by towering mountain peaks in every direction. You could say that we live in a mountain fastness - hemmed in by rock. But don't imagine that it feels shut in - all you need to do is to look up from the roof to see the ridges marching away to the sky and in the far distance, 70 miles away, the snowy pyramid which is the peak of one of the world's highest mountains, now visible, now invisible, sometimes glowing pink from the sunset, sometimes with wisps of white cloud trailing from the summit.

Back down to earth from these lofty heights - let me tell you something about everyday life. I live above a hospitable family from one of the local valleys who are always ready to make me welcome in their kitchen near the wood burning stove with a cup of chai. The garden is stocked with rows of vegetables, splashes of flowering colour in the summer, and a goat which helpfully eats all leftovers.

Early each morning I let myself out of the gate and down the track. School is a ten minute walk away, across the main road - on the way I am joined by schoolgirls in their green and white check uniforms. The bell rings and it's time to stand in the dusty yard and sing the national anthem along to a crackly rendition by a military band (that's on the days when the electricity is working).

Into class, I greet my class of 35 or so teenage girls and work begins for the day. They are very polite - "How are you ma'am?" We set to work - games, stories, essays, drama, vocab - there's plenty to do with the girls' final exams approaching. I see all of my four classes every day. The girls function with varying degrees of ease in English, for many of them it's a third or fourth language.

A tea break with the teachers and home again, this time with the cattle for company, and off to my language lesson and the rest of the day - more English lessons, prep for tomorrow. *(continued on next page)*

In the winter season, the sun dips behind the mountain at about 2pm, and it's light fades at about 5. The city folds up for the evening, shop fronts are closed and the cows find their way home. Downstairs, the children are busy in their textbooks and going to night school.

Back to the roof again. The snowy peaks start to glow in the moonlight and tower down as if standing guard over the valley. A galaxy of stars appears in the folds of the night sky.

The stars and the mountain peaks watch over our world as we sleep. Welcome to one day in our world. I hope you enjoyed the trip!

Rebecca

---

## **CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL**

The Church Representation Rules require a new church electoral roll to be prepared for each Parish during 2007. This means that the present electoral roll will be obsolete and anyone at present on that roll will have to complete a new application form. Each member on the present roll will receive a new application form in the next few weeks and this must be completed by the end of March. If you are not on the present roll you can obtain a form from me or one of the Churchwardens in church or by calling in at the Benefice Office. Please ensure that your name, full address and telephone number are on the form before returning it. If you attend the church on a regular basis there are many reasons why you should consider being on the roll one of which is it will give you the right to vote at the Annual General Meeting enabling you to help make decisions within your own church or even consider being on the Parochial Church Council. Whether you wish to do this or not please consider applying to be a member of this church.

Irene Gassor  
Electoral Roll Officer



Dear Friends

We arrived in Savannah, Georgia, just in time to celebrate Christmas. On Christmas Eve we went to Midnight Mass in Christ Church (yes!), where we were given a candle on arrival. At the start of the service the church was darkened, then choristers moved down the aisles with tapers from which we all lit our small ones and passed the flame along the pews like the spreading of the Word. When we were all alight we sang *Oh little town of Bethlehem*. “Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light!” This memory will warm my heart for ever.

We were invited to spend Christmas Day with friends of a Stone Master Marathoner. Mac had been part of the peacekeeping forces in Bosnia where he had met Colonel Frank Williams III, and we were invited to Frank Williams Junior’s for the Christmas meal. Our host was 84 and had fought for us all in World War II. It was a typical Southern-style occasion, a buffet meal with three generations of the family plus local hangers-on and foreign boaters.

Both Frank Junior and Frank III have their own jetties on the waterway and we were able to break our journey at their homes. This was an answer to prayer as there are long stretches of the Intracoastal Waterway in Georgia without marinas and we are travelling when the days are short. I had been really worried about how we were to handle this stretch of the trip, but as in so many cases during this adventure, when I put it in the Lord’s hands he solved the problem for me.

We have travelled through most of Georgia now and just have Florida to traverse before coming home. The coastline of Georgia is only about 100 miles as the crow flies, but the Intracoastal meanders along rivers and creeks, crossing half a dozen sounds a mile or more in width. We cruise through marsh grass of a bright yellow, on a silvery blue satin water. Terry wrote the following passage about North Carolina but it applies even more to Georgia.

*(continued on next page)*

## 12 From our American Correspondent (continued)

---

“The Good Lord started with light, and then he divided the earth from the waters, and then he said Let the earth bring forth grass, and in North Carolina He stopped right there, and moved on somewhere else to do all the trees and stuff, and He forgot to come back to the Intracoastal Waterway.

First the channel, waves flashing and spitting, then yellow grass for ever, standing in water, the wind stroking it, sometimes a creek running away. Seas, seas of grass. Far off, higher ground before the ocean, then a scrubbed sky and an attenuated cloud five miles long like the sketch of the first cloud ever. Light, and more light, and blue and yellow and white and a touch of dark in the distance, and air, the first air, a wind that none has breathed. So it must have been at the dawn of the earliest light.

To set off such purity, such restraint, the Good Lord would have introduced a pelican, floating above the waves, relaxed, but no, He would have the pelican tumbling through the air just like that one – a clownish comma in the poetry of dawn, here on the North Carolina sea of grass.”

We think of you all from the Georgia sea of grass. God bless you and keep you and make the light of his countenance shine upon you.

Monica Darlington

---

## Children's Society Boxes

---

125 years of pioneering work with children

Yes it's that time of year again. Please can you let me have your Children's Society Box. If you bring it to church please hand it to me or to one of the wardens, don't leave it at the back of church. If you would like me to collect your box that's fine, just let me know. House boxes raise over £2 million a year for the Society's work.

You may be interested in having a box yourself, I would be happy to organise that for you. Every penny counts in giving a child a new start.

Children's Society Hon. Secretary  
Sandra Morray



*There's a lot of things children do at Explorers, such as Bible Readings, Prayers and Discussions. The group is for children aged 7 to 11 years.*

- *The Leaders ask the Explorers to read different Bible Readings, varied from very hard to very easy readings. They also discuss the Bible reading and talk about how it affects their daily lives, family and friends.*
- *The leader starts the prayers and the children are encouraged to make their own special prayers and if they like, they can share it with the group*
- *Sometimes they are given handouts, to take home afterwards.*

*I go to Explorers and I think it's great learning about GOD, I've made lots of friends.*                      From Richard Cumberlidge

## **Christingle Service December 16<sup>th</sup> 2006**

More people than ever came along to enjoy the Christingle Service. Over 60 oranges were made into Christingles many children remembering what each symbol represented. Once again many thanks to Estella who organised a variety of crafts, which all the children enjoyed. In church we took part in a short service, with thanks to Jim and the young musicians who led the music. Every year when with trepidation we light the Christingle candle, I always feel a sense of wonder and I am thrilled by the singing of Away in a manger, Christmas has begun. Thanks to everyone who helped. An astounding £121 -10p has gone to the Children's Society towards their work supporting vulnerable children most in need.

Sandra Morray

**Tearfund** says of itself – ‘We are one of the UK’s leading relief and development charities – a movement of Christians standing with people in poverty. We’re committed to offering hope, providing a meaningful future, and speaking out against injustice. We work with local partners in 70 countries.’

For many years now, Christ Church has provided an opportunity to give to one of Tearfund’s projects twice a year – once at Harvest and again on Tearfund Sunday, which has traditionally been on the first Sunday in March. This year we will focus on **WORK a MIRACLE**, Tearfund’s project to stop the spread of HIV in the poorest places where they work by 2015.

Tearfund’s plan to stop the spread of HIV and reverse the impact of AIDS includes:

- Preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV
- Supporting women and children affected by HIV
- Promoting access to treatment
- Ending stigma and discrimination
- Changing behaviour among children and young people

Information about the project and giving envelopes will be available on 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> February 2007 and then, on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2007, there will be:

- offering plates out in church and the Centre for people to place their gifts in if they feel they should give to the project;
- ‘brunch’ in the Centre after the service – proceeds to Tearfund;
- and the showing of a Tearfund DVD about the project.

---

### DO PLAN TO JOIN US ON THE 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH

---

#### **Talking Donkey stops Prophet in his tracks!**



So you didn’t think talking animals were for real? Think again! Read Numbers 22 and find out how a donkey was much wiser than a prophet.

## ROADS FOR PRAYER

**Please pray for people living in these streets of our parish**

4th February

Navigation Loop

Rangeley View

Barnton Edge

Anderton View / Way

11th February

Bentley Close

Rendel Grove

Brindley Close

Rudyard Close

18th February

Cressey Close

Joules Drive

Cauldon Way

Harecastle Bank

25th February

Saltersford Rise

Rolt Close

Millenium Way

Cameron Wharf



### **Lent course: ‘Six Steps to Encouragement.’**

---

God has given every Christian an enormous privilege and gift: the power to speak his life-changing word into the lives of other people. There’s no reason at all for there to be ‘passengers’ in church: every Christian can change the lives of those around them through knowing and telling the message of God’s grace, whether in front of a group, in a hand written note, in a one-to-one conversation over coffee or in many other ways. Every Christian can be a channel of encouragement.

Through video input, Bible study, exercises and discussion we will learn about how to bring life, hope and strength to those around us by bringing the powerful word of God to them.

This Lent course begins on Ash Wednesday and a daytime group is also being made available. There is a booklet, which each person will need. We will place a group order soon.

### **A training curate for the benefice.**

---

We are pleased that the benefice and its incumbent have been approved by the Diocese to provide a training post for a curate.

We are pleased to announce that Timothy Vasby-Burnie, his wife Caroline and their daughter Hannah will join us during the autumn. They are currently at Wycliffe Hall, in Oxford, where Tim is studying.

# FROM THE REGISTERS

---

## BAPTISMS

24<sup>th</sup> December      Amber Stephanie Mullen  
                                  Ashley Stephen Mullen

## FUNERALS

9<sup>th</sup> January              Margaret Woods              Age 77

## SIDESPERSIONS FOR FEBRUARY

	AM	PM
4th Feb	T. MacFarlane, D. Wilson C. Wilding, A. Greer	D. Shemilt
11th Feb	M. Hutchinson, B. Hutchinson D. Pickles, J. Rowlands	P. Tunstall
18th Feb	A. West, S. Hallam V. Ledward, D. Wilson	D. Shemilt
25th Feb	P. Hipkiss, G. Holden M. Holden, T. MacFarlane	P. Tunstall

## FLOWER ROTA

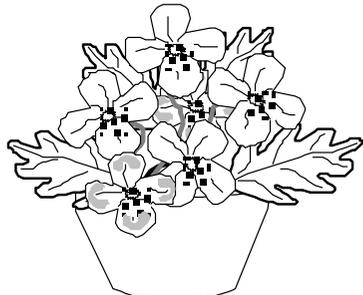
(Money donated by)

4th Feb              Mrs M. Hillman

11th Feb            Mrs Buckley

18th Feb            Flower Guild

25th Feb            Lent



<b>Deanery Synod Reps</b>	Mrs S Hallam, Mr I Hawley, Mr D. Rowlands	
<b>P.C.C. Members</b>	Mr J Challinor, Mrs B Guerrard, Mrs I Gassor Mr D Guerrard, Mrs M Hillman, Mrs E Mason, Mr P Mason, Mrs D Wilson, Mrs E Woodhead Mrs M. Hutchinson, Mrs E. Bell, Mrs S. Morray, Mrs S. Sanders	
<b>Secretary</b>	Jacqueline Abrahams.....	817020
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kevin Reynolds.....	851595
<b>Envelopes, Gift Aid</b>	Ian Hawley.....	811646

## GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

<b>Climbers 3-7 years</b>	Sandra Morray.....	286093
<b>Explorers 7-11 years</b>	Estella Woodhead.....	761659
<b>Pathfinders 11-14 years</b>	Enid Bell.....	815775
<b>Cornerstone Bible Study</b>	Thomas Nash.....	286551
<b>Youth Group Yr9 upwards</b>	Thomas Nash.....	286551
<b>Banner Group</b>	Jeanette Rowlands.....	816713
<b>Church Missionary Boxes</b>	Cecilia Wilding.....	817987
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Marylyn Hillman.....	815936
<b>Men's Fellowship</b>	Mike Thompson.....	813712
<b>Missions Secretary</b>	Cecilia Wilding.....	817987
<b>Prayer Group</b>	Jeanette Rowlands.....	816713
<b>Parents &amp; Toddlers</b> (Mon 9.30 – 11.15am)	Sandra Morray.....	286093
<b>Friday "Little Fishes"</b> (Fri 11am – 1.30pm)	Cecilia Wilding.....	817987

## THE MAGAZINE TEAM

<b>Mission News&amp; Prayer Diary</b>	Cecilia Wilding	817987
<b>Please send material for the magazine to</b>		
Dave Bell, c/o Christ Church Parish Office, Christ Church Way, Staffs ST15 8ZB or by email to christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk		

# Christ Church welcomes you!

---

Whether you are new to the Stone area or have been living here for some time you are welcome to come to this church. The church is made up of adults and children who want to know more about the living God, who has supremely revealed Himself in Jesus Christ and continues to speak to us through His Spirit-inspired word, the Holy Bible (which can be read online at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) and we recommend a modern translation e.g. the New International Version or English Standard Version).

We are a Christian church, because at the heart of what we believe is the fact that to know God personally we must put our trust in Jesus' death for our forgiveness so that we can be reconciled to God. We are part of the Anglican church, the basis of its Trinitarian belief is summarised in the Book of Common Prayer with its 39 articles, though we unite in Christ irrespective of denomination. We are an Evangelical church, as we see that the Bible is God's word for us and so is to inspire all that we do. This church was established with the help of the renowned Charles Simeon.

Our church meetings help us to grow in our understanding of what the Bible tells us about God, and this is something that we encourage others to investigate especially through our *Christianity Explored* course (see details on the national website [www.christianityexplored.com](http://www.christianityexplored.com)). If you would like details of when the next local course is starting then please contact the church office.

We have children's and youth activities running during the Sunday meetings and also during the week, such as our Tuesday evening youth club. Adults may be further involved through small groups which meet for Bible study and prayer, a midweek communion service and a monthly prayer meeting.

Our community involvement includes links with the local schools: Christ Church First, Oulton First, Christ Church Middle and Alleyne's High.

We also have links with the Church in India, The Philippines, Croatia, Botswana and Pakistan.

This magazine and the church website concern Christ Church in Stone, but we are linked with the churches in Oulton and Moddershall (see separate magazine and website).

---

## Subscriptions

If you would like this magazine delivered to you regularly, please contact:  
Mrs Marylyn Hillman, Park Lodge, Beech Court, Stone. Tel 815936

## Missionary Prayer Requests

### TEARFUND

Prayer requests in the weekly World Watch Prayer Link include the following:

- Thu 1<sup>st</sup> There have been violent clashes between police and activists during recent transport blockades in **Bangladesh**, ahead of pending elections. Staff working for Tearfund partner Koinonia, ask for our prayers as they have been unable to travel to their offices. Pray for peace and stability and that, after the elections, all parties will work together for the benefit of the country. Pray also for a rise in temperature in the north of the country where 110+ people have died recently in unusually cold weather
- Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Pray for the people of Somalia whose problems have been increased by the recent US invasion. The country is also recovering from severe flooding. (1 million people have been made homeless.) Pray for peace so that aid agencies can reach those in need. Pray that both sides involved in the conflict can negotiate the best way to resolve the situation for the people of Somalia.
- Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> There is concern for food supplies in Southern **Sudan**. As people move back into the area, it is predicted that half a million people will be short of food. Please pray that this situation can be prevented and that all the people of Sudan will have enough food. Pray also for a peaceful solution to the conflict and for the safety of Tearfund partners working there.
- Sun 4<sup>th</sup> As living standards decline in **Zimbabwe**, (by 150% in ten years), Tearfund is asking us to pray that the EU will vote to renew its sanctions at this month's meeting. The sanctions freeze assets held in the EU by Mugabe and his associates and prevent them from travelling to the EU. Pray that this campaign will encourage the people of Zimbabwe, as they realise that they are not forgotten by the rest of the world.
- Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Fighting in the east of the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** is still continuing despite the peace deal. Pray for real peace in DRC and that rebel groups will stop operating. Give thanks that democratic elections have been held for the first time in 40 years. Pray for the new government trying to govern a vast, diverse and war-torn country. Pray for Tearfund partners and relief teams bringing help to people returning home to eastern DRC

## **TIM & KATE LEE, Rebekah, James & Grace - PHILIPPINES**

The Lee family are back into the thick of the work of Jigsaw Kids Ministries amongst street children and families in Manila. In their third issue of Jigsaw News (*copy in red folder on shelf under Overseas Notice Board, or from Cecilia*), they ask prayer for the following:

- Tue 6<sup>th</sup> Pray for the kids that come to the Jigsaw centres that Tim and the team will continually find new ways in which to meet their physical, spiritual and educational needs.
- Wed 7\* Pray that God would direct the team to a new larger building on, or near, Visayas Avenue.
- Thu 8<sup>th</sup> Pray for the reorganisation of Jigsaw, that God would direct them in appointing God's chosen leaders and managers from within the Jigsaw Kids workers. Pray for wisdom as they plan to make Jigsaw self-sustainable
- Fri 9\* Pray for a new secretary for the project as Dana leaves at the end of January..
- Sat 10<sup>th</sup> We have just heard (20 January) that Tim's father's condition is deteriorating. He has dementia and is in a care home Tim is coming home on 1 February to see his father and deal with some Jigsaw business.

## **OWEN & TRACY HUMPHREYS, Ben, Steffan & Jonathan - S.INDIA**

The family will now be back at Hebron School after a long winter break.

- Sun 11\* They have two visitors coming from their church, one visiting for a few weeks from the middle of January, and the other coming as a volunteer for five months. Pray that they have a very special time at Hebron. (*Rebecca with us in Morning Service today*)
- Mon 12<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the whole family to settle back quickly into the new term, Ben's last. Pray that Ben will be able to work hard and get the exam grades he needs
- Tue 13<sup>th</sup>** Ben is applying for universities and has to get "home status" as he has lived outside the UK. This can be a tricky business! Pray for success.
- Wed 14** Pray that Owen & Tracy will have the wisdom and strength they need to do their work, for the boys to have the will to work and play hard and make good friendships, and for harmony in the family and amongst staff and students.

## RALPH & DAGMAR BARON, Helen, Sarah & Simon - S. INDIA

There has been no recent news from the Baron family. They have been away over the winter holiday and may only now (mid-January) be returning to Hebron School, hence the lack of news. The second, and final, term of the academic year commences at the end of the month.

Thu 15<sup>th</sup> Pray for Ralph in his role as head of the computer services department at the School. He praises God for the two members of staff working with him in resolving the many problems which arise in keeping the school network up and running, safe and fit for purpose. Pray for wisdom and perseverance for Ralph and the team. (*Rebecca is with us tonight for a shared supper and to tell us about her experiences in Pakistan.*)

Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Dagmar wrote in their last Bulletin - "Hebron School Science Department is thriving!" Praise God for this. She also writes "I am Form Tutor to 20 of the year 12 students and I work as DPD adviser for year 13 students - this involves overseeing their personal and academic progress and helping them prepare university applications." Pray for her in these responsibilities as well as being Head of Science.

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> The present tenants in their house in Bromley were only staying there until January. Pray that new ones may be found quickly. Pray for the busy people who are managing the house while Ralph & Dagmar are away.

Sun 18<sup>th</sup> They praise God for 14 A Level students who studied 'searching issues' with them last term. One recently came to faith. They also praise God for the witness and strong commitment to fellowship, worship and Bible study among their students. Their son, Simon and his friends meet several times a week for a time of fellowship before bedtime. Pray for this to continue, especially as exams loom at the end of this term. (*The Dubrava Church celebrates its second anniversary tonight - see Fri 23<sup>r</sup>*)

## REBECCA -PAKISTAN

Rebecca wrote in mid-January -'I am enjoying a break back in the UK, and looking forward to coming to Christ Church in the next month (*Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February*). Thank you very much for your support and interest, and I'm looking forward to meeting with some of you soon.. Prayer/praise:

Mon 19th I'm thankful for a good rest here, and that the adjustment so far has been easy.

Tue 20<sup>th</sup> Please pray for the time here as I meet with various groups, for fruitful times of sharing and catching up

Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Please pray for me as I make decisions about a new job possibility involving teacher training.

### **STEPHEN & TABITA BELL, Sheona, Joshua & Benjamin - CROATIA**

Stephen & Tabita are involved in a church-planting ministry in Zagreb, Croatia.

Thu 22<sup>nd</sup> The Dubrava church plans to become financially independent of its Zagreb 'mother church' in 2007 Please pray that plans will work out, and that the congregations will grow in numbers and commitment.

Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Celebrations are planned for February 18<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the anniversary of the church. Many visitors are expected. Please pray that the celebration will bring more local people into the church

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Please pray for the children's groups, especially 'Musikids', a group which sings in the church and in other venues outside the church. Getting young people involved is important.

Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Please pray also for the home groups that people attending may come to faith and grow in their faith.

### **JONATHAN & ROBINAH BEESIGOMWE - BOTSWANA**

Jonathan and Robinah are involved in student outreach and HIV/AIDS education. They are Ugandan citizens and have seven children.

Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Jonathan and Robinah continue to work among students but have started a new work with families. Please pray that this venture will be successful.

Tue 27<sup>th</sup> Jonathan and Robinah are concerned about the effects of AIDS and divorce on young families. Please pray that young couples in Botswana will be able to be faithful to each other, and that their faith in God will enable them to avoid temptation.

Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Please pray for the health of Jonathan's old and overloaded car, and for safety as Jonathan travels on the roads of Botswana and Zimbabwe.